



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Teri Rennia, City Council President
Angela Holmes, City Clerk

MINUTES PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE City Council Work Room, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton Wednesday May 7, 2014

Called to Order. Called to order by Planning and Community Development Committee Chair Webb at 5:32pm.

Council Members Present: Jerry Motsavage, Joseph Mihalko (Committee Member), Teri Rennia, Lea Webb (Committee Chair), Chris Papastrat

Council Members Absent: John Matzo, Bill Berg (Committee Member, arrived at 6:20pm)

Also Present: John Darrow (arrived at 5:43pm); Angela Holmes, City Clerk

ITEMS CONSIDERED

Discussion. The Planning and Community Development Committee reviewed Mayor Richard C. David's comment on the Comprehensive Plan, received on Tuesday May 6, 2014. While reviewing these comments, Council members noted questions which should be forwarded to the Mayor or other individuals and/or agencies for clarification.

Executive Summary. Included below are the comments noted by Mayor David concerning the Executive Summary, along with those corresponding questions or notes made by Council members, and the person(s) to whom the questions and/or notes should be forwarded.

- **Comment:** "Low percentage of involvement, 7449 maximum number of residents".
Response: What does the Mayor consider to be a low level of involvement? How does the level of public involvement concerning this Comprehensive Plan compare to the involvement received in other Comprehensive Plans?
Action: Forward questions to the Mayor, the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development (PHCD) and the consultants.
- **Comment:** "Not sure if all were actually residents. In non-residents can't even talk at a City Council meeting, how have they impacted the most important document for the next decade of City government?"
Response: Non-residents are allowed to speak during public comment and public hearings at City Council meetings. If a non-resident wishes to speak, Council suspends the rules to allow them privilege of the floor. The economic development of the City is influenced by both residents and non-residents.
Action: Forward comment to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** "454 took citywide survey".
Response: Where did this number come from?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** "Why Charles Street Business Park?"
Response: Please clarify the question. Is the Mayor asking why this was included in the Executive Summary?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.



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- **Comment:** “Can mixed-use downtown be limiting” and “Why is focus on small, independent retailers?”
Response: The consultants can respond with the reasons for these recommendations.
Action: Forward question to the consultants.
 - **Comment:** “Guide = regulate”
Response: What does this mean? Please clarify.
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
 - **Comment:** “What are the real housing needs? Talk to developers.”
Response: What is the reason for this question? Developers aren’t the only ones who should be consulted when determining the needs of a municipality. Other agencies should be consulted too.
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
 - **Comment:** “What are the incentives for new student housing?”
Response: Is the Mayor asking for examples of what kinds of incentives might exist?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor and consultants.
 - **Comment:** “Does the City want to take money from parkers and give to pedestrians and bicyclists?”
Response: Please explain this statement. In what way would money be taken from one and given to the other?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
 - **Comment:** “Are alternate modes of transportation a priority? State has a crosswalk policy?”
Response: Please clarify the correlation between these two items. Are these supposed to be two separate comments?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
 - **Comment:** “Partnering with BCSD to increase the number of students walking to school contradicts with school policy that more walking students impacts truancy. Seek input from BCSD.”
Response: Council members indicated agreement with this comment.
Action: Forward note to the Mayor.
 - **Comment:** “Separating sewers not always good idea.”
Response: Why? Is there data supporting this? If so, please forward such information to City Council.
Action: Forward question to the Mayor and the Department of Public Works.

Economic Development. Included below are the comments noted by Mayor David concerning the chapter on Economic Development, along with those corresponding questions or notes made by Council members, and the person(s) to whom the questions and/or notes should be forwarded.

- **Comment:** Regarding 1.1, “. . .Binghamton should have relocation incentives. . .”
Response: What would this look like in practice? Would the incentives be for businesses?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 1.2, “Need to have a better plan about what businesses/development we’re focusing on.”
Response: Please clarify. The recommendation states that the City should not focus on specific businesses, but



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open the City to a wide variety of industries.

Action: Forward question to the Mayor.

- **Comment:** Regarding 1.3, “Basically says we need a better ED and BLDC. How is that accomplished without changing the players in the game? Already exists.”
Response: Council members noted that this comment seems to refer to the “Quick Response Team”, and indicated general support for this proposal.
Action: Forward note to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 2.1, “Developing industrial areas should include salt, water transport to PA for fracking.”
Response: At the Local Government Training seminar held at the Town of Chenango, the speakers emphasized the necessity of addressing fracking in the Comprehensive Plan, regardless of whether one is in favor or opposed to fracking. Our Comprehensive Plan does not currently address this. A section regarding fracking, including the collection, storage, transportation and disposal of water and/or contaminated water should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.
Action: Forward note to the Mayor and consultants.
- **Comment:** Regarding 2.2, “Support should go beyond Brandywine BOA.”
Response: Does the recommendation intend to focus on the Brandywine BOA at the exclusion of all other industrial sites, or does it simply mention the Brandywine BOA because that site is ready now? Is the Brandywine BOA supposed to extend to the other side of the highway?
Action: Forward question to the consultants.
- **Comment:** Regarding 3.2, “Legality? Enforcement?”
Response: The recommendation is a challenge, not a mandate. Other cities have presented this challenge, and anchor institutions have stepped up. Meeting the challenge not only improves the image and standing of those anchor institutions, but benefits local businesses as well.
Action: Forward note to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 3.3, “SUNY Broome, Davis College, tech companies. . .”
Response: Are these institutions supposed to be part of the comment on 3.2?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 7.2, “How does community feel about public art?”
Response: The community’s support for public art has been documented through the public engagement sessions held for the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The consultants can provide additional information.
Action: Forward to the consultants.
- **Comment:** Business Retention, JumpStart Binghamton, Workforce Development, Binghamton Quick Response Team and Binghamton INSPIRED.
Response: What is the purpose of these comments? Is the Mayor proposing to include these initiatives in the Comprehensive Plan?
Action: Forward to the Mayor.



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- **Comment:** Workforce Development.
Response: This is already addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.
Action: Forward to the Mayor.

Housing. Included below are the comments noted by Mayor David concerning the chapter on Housing, along with those corresponding questions or notes made by Council members, and the person(s) to whom the questions and/or notes should be forwarded.

- **Comment:** Regarding 1.3, “Market rate, not Section 8, needed for young professionals and seniors.”
Response: Is the Mayor saying that the City needs additional market rate housing more than it needs additional Section 8 housing? Is the Mayor looking to eliminate support for Section 8 housing?
Action: Forward to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 1.5, “Can this be accomplished by Broome County Land Bank?”
Response: This question can likely be answered by PHCD and the consultants.
Action: Forward questions to PHCD and the consultants.
- **Comment:** Regarding 1.6, “Would be good in Weed & Seed/BLDC for ED dept.”
Response: The Weed & Seed program has not been in operation for about four years. Is the Mayor consulting old maps?
Action: Forward questions to the Mayor.

Transportation. Included below are the comments noted by Mayor David concerning the chapter on Transportation, along with those corresponding questions or notes made by Council members, and the person(s) to whom the questions and/or notes should be forwarded.

- **Comment:** “Full reconstruction is no longer a viable option.”
Response: How is it possible to not have full reconstruction of City streets as an option? What alternative is there?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** “Under Transportation, there was no mention of traffic signals”.
Response: Traffic signals are addressed on page 162 of the Comprehensive Plan.
Action: Forward note to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 1.1, “If council disagrees with the plan, they can stop funding.”
Response: To what is the Mayor referring? The Citywide Roadway Infrastructure Plan does not just include roads. The City does not have such a plan at present.
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.
- **Comment:** Regarding 3.2, “How does it impact form-based code?”
Response: Please clarify. What is the correlation between public transportation and Form Based Code?
Action: Forward question to the Mayor.



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Discussion. Councilwoman Webb noted for the record that any additional questions or comments on the Mayor's comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan should be forwarded to the City Clerk.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 6:24pm.
Moved by Berg, seconded by Motsavage.

Voice vote, none opposed.